

# K. James's Commission, TO PRIVATEERS.

To Ravage, Plunder, Burn, Sink, and Destroy all the  
Ships and Goods of the People of England, Scotland, and  
Ireland.

With Remarks thereupon.

James, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, and Ire-  
land, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To Our Trusty  
and Well-Beloved, Captain Patrick Lambert.

KNOW YE, That we Reposing Special Trust in your Approved Fidelity and  
Valour have Assigned, Constituted and Appointed you Commander of the  
Good-Will called the Providence, and further, We give you full Power and  
Authority to enter into any Part of River of the Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ire-  
land, or any Territories therunto belonging, and either there or at Sea, to make  
and apprehend, and in case of any Opposition or Resistance, to sink, Burn, or other-  
wise Destroy all Ships and Vessels, together with their Goods, Wadding, and Men-  
sives, belonging to the Inhabitants of England, Scotland and Ireland, or either of them,  
Commander with the Ships, Goods and Merchandise of the States of the United Pro-  
vinces of Utrecht, Amsterdam, and to bring and send up all such Ships and Goods as  
they shall take into some Part of France, and to reduce the same to be accounted law-  
ful Prize in the next Court of Admiralty, established by our Dear Brother the most  
Christian King. And the Tenor and Effect of this Commission out of the said Privileges to be  
paid to Thomas Stratford, in his absence to John Simpson of Bristol, by to such other  
Persons as shall have Authority from Us to receive the same.

Given at Our Court at the Castle of St. Albans on the 21<sup>st</sup> Day of June 1645.

REMARKS.  
**T**HE PAX and ANXIETIES of  
some People are very unex-  
plainable, that it puzzles me much  
on to conceive how wrong  
Zeal can arise from so undeserving a Sub-  
ject of their Veneration. For instance,  
not to Treat untenderly with the Ru-  
ines of Majesty, nor take up Royal Mis-  
carriages, to make Reflections on Great-  
ness in Distress; The Publication of this  
following Commission of the late King  
James, is not so much intended, as an In-  
vective on that unhappy Prince, as to ex-  
press our Admiration at the unfathomable  
Extravagancies of some over-bigotted  
Zealots in his Favour.

Queens, Guards, Guards  
and Gentlemen of the Guard paid  
the usual scutell to the common  
and principal Priests, how justly  
and sincerely they do indeavour their  
own Religion. There is a chance in  
zeal, and an extraordinary Reli-  
gion, that can quit the Pretences to Ti-  
tles so Great, though never so deserv-  
ingly Forfeited. We do not therefore at all  
wonder at the Irish and French Army, pre-  
pared for his once intended Descent and  
Invasion of England; nor the early Naval  
Preparations of the French on that Ocea-  
sion. Such an Expedition on so important  
an Attempt, carried some little Face of  
Glory in it. His very Enemies could not  
deny but such an Enterprize had been an  
Ambition

ceeded, he might fairly have written himself *the Conqueror*. But Gentlemen, so bold and gallant Achievements, in the Universal Standard of Honour, carry a great Name; and which true Greatness, possibly, has no occasion to be ashamed of. Nevertheless, there may be those poorer Delights, that instead of being either Great or Glorious, perhaps may carry the vilest and most abject Face, than a much less Character than King James ought to blush at. As for Example, the foregoing *Commission*.

There you'll find him. Of a late way  
rantaile Ambition of recovering Three  
Kingdoms, he poorly descends to grant  
him Commissions to Privateers to Rifie  
and Spoil all the Subjects of England, Scot-  
land and Ireland, indifferently to Burn,  
Sink and Fire their Vessels, &c. and all  
thou about respect of Persons, Interest  
or Religion. The severest Romanist, or  
most violent Jacobite (without exception) is to be swept in the common Doom.  
So that instead of pretending all his former  
promis'd Immunity and Tenderness  
to the People of England, or instead of  
bravely grappling at his Royal Right in  
the Imperial Seat, he vily shuns little  
less than a common Pyrate, Authorizes  
the Depredation of the English Merchants  
even by the very hands of Englishmen.  
This last poor Spirited Monarch must  
either plainly tell us, that he has wholly  
renounced all hopes of recovery of his  
Kingdoms; and so under that Delusion he  
resolves to play at a small Game rather  
than stand out, (which indeed is the  
best Title I can give it) and consequent-  
ly (like the Famous *Dionysius* fumed  
*Pedagogue*) when he can Scourge King-  
doms no longer, he prepares his letter  
Rod for a more humble Tyrannick Lash;  
or else that forgetting that he ever was a  
Monarch, and therefore blushing in no  
thing though never so Unprincely, he  
contents himself with being under Secre-  
tary to the French King, whilst the little  
James <sup>What a Subjunctive in the other</sup> Land. The French King deputes him  
as his Envoy to Copy Commissions  
of Justice, and to make and ordain  
privileges of royal Regalitie, lawes  
and institutions of the W. banished by  
you. A dastard land who is taken over  
by the French. The King of France did not longer  
laye his hande on a lande, but he  
soon as he had it he shone in it  
as no Kinge before him. He did not  
so well alioyed with Yorke, as he  
did with Anthonie. And you will see  
if he had had any good Kinge he  
would have done well.

for him ; and the Contented Receiver of  
that high Favour is paid to officiate in the  
Trust. It was remarkt of him, that at  
his first departure from England upon his  
Transport from *Faversham*, he uttered  
this Expression. That he had rather be a  
*Captain of a Troop of Light Horse under the*  
*French King, than *Royal King of England under the**  
*Lafham Control of Parlia-*  
*mants.* A Captain of a Troop of Horse  
is an overhigh Post. But truly of the  
two 'tis much the more Honourable than  
the granting of such Commission. But  
indeed all these tend to the aggrandizing  
of the *French King* ; the poorer the Sub-  
jects of *England*, the stronger the Grand  
*Lewis* ; his inviolable Zeal and Fidelity,  
therefore to that most Christian (so titled)  
*Nero*, supercedes all other Considerations,  
and (*fas aut nefas*) right or wrong, ho-  
nourable or infamous, nothing comes a-  
mills that carries the least shadow of service  
to that darling Idol.

One thing is very Remarkable in the  
James Faces of King James's Pretences.  
This very Commission found on Board  
one of the late Prizes, was dated at St.  
Germans, the 22d of February: which  
( pray observe ) bearing date before his  
intended Invasion; impours this Privative  
to enter into any Port or River of Eng-  
land, Scotland, or Ireland; and commit  
all those Hostilities of Firing, Sacking,  
Burning, &c. All Trades Vessels what-  
ever, at the same time that his Declara-  
tion, prepared for his Reception in Eng-  
land, insinuated all the Affection and Ten-  
derness imaginable to the Interest Property,  
and what not, of his Subjects of  
England, viz. That he was coming only  
to recover his own Right, Establish and  
Restore their Laws and Liberties; and yet at the same time he gave out Com-  
missions to Waste, Ruine, and Destroy  
the most innocent Traders of the King-  
dom, probably no ways interested in the  
Titles, and Disputes of Princes, in Par-  
tition or Causes; but on the contrary only  
endeavouring a peaceable Acquisition of  
their Dom<sup>d</sup>, by their Honest Commerce  
and Industry.